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PATENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

AUGUST 6, 2001

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By:

*Sharon Savino*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

ADELMAN *et al.*

Application No.: 09/254,590

Filed: May 24, 1999

For: SMALL AND INTERMEDIATE  
CONDUCTANCE, CALCIUM-  
ACTIVATED POTASSIUM  
CHANNELS AND USES THEREOF

Examiner: Pak, Michael D.

Art Unit: 1646

RESPONSE TO OFFICE  
COMMUNICATION

Art Unit 1646  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants provide the following response to the Office Communication dated July 2, 2001. A petition to extend the time for response for one month, from August 2, 2001 to September 2, 2001, is transmitted herewith.

REMARKS

***The invention***

In one aspect, the present application provides, for the first time, identification of a family of calcium-activated potassium channels. This family is called the "SK" family, for small conductance potassium channels and comprises three members called SK1, SK2, and SK3. This family of channels is highly conserved (about 80-90% identity) over a core sequence of approximately 300 amino acids. Furthermore, this family of channels share